



INSPECTOR GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
400 ARMY NAVY DRIVE  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202-4704

JAN 10 2006

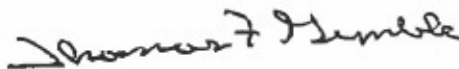
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0516

Dear Representative Lofgren:

Thank you for the letter from you and your colleagues dated December 20, 2005, concerning press reports of certain surveillance activities by the National Security Agency (NSA). We have determined that the Inspector General of NSA is already actively reviewing aspects of that program. The NSA's Office of Inspector General is a well-staffed, highly professional organization with considerable expertise in the oversight of electronic surveillance, and we work closely with them on a number of issues. I should also note that the program you inquire about is highly classified. In light of those facts, and in light of our confidence in the competence and integrity of the NSA Inspector General and his staff, we have referred your letter to him with the suggestion that he review it and reply through the appropriate channel, which in this instance would be the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He has agreed to do so.

I appreciate your expression of concern and trust this letter response to your inquiry. A similar letter has been sent to the other Members who co-signed the letter. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me or Mr. John R. Crane, Assistant Inspector General for Communications and Congressional Liaison at (703) 604-8324.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas F. Gimble  
Acting